

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Kingman United States Post Office  
other names/site number Same

**2. Location**

street & number 425 N. Main Street ☐ not for publication  
city, town Kingman ☐ vicinity  
state Kansas code KS county Kingman code 095 zip code 67068

**3. Classification**

## Ownership of Property

- ☐ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☒ public-Federal

## Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

## Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Kansas Post Offices that Contain Treasury  
Department Section Artwork, 1936-1942

Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register 0

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the  
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Kimberly F. Brown State Historic Preservation Officer February 27, 1989

Signature of certifying official

Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the National  
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.  
☐ removed from the National Register.  
☐ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

095-2850-0007

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Government: Post Office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Government: Post Office

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

20th Century Revival: Classical  
Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls Brick

roof Asphalt  
other Limestone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Kingman United States Post Office (c. 1940-1941) is located at 425 N. Main Street in Kingman, Kingman County, Kansas (pop. 3,563). The one story, truncated hipped roof, red brick building has an eastern facade orientation. A one story, one bay flat roofed wing projects from both the south and north elevations. The building measures approximately fifty-five feet from north to south and sixty-three feet from east to west. A double door pierces the center of the building's facade, surmounted by a large arched transom. Steps lead up to the doorway. Two large, multi-paned, 1/1 double hung window flank the doorway. The facade corners on the main unit are bevelled at a forty-five degree angle. One large, multipaned 1/1, double hung window pierces the facade elevations of the wings. Similar fenestration is employed on the lesser elevations. This post office is an example of the smaller class C or D standardized design type that was repeated throughout the country during the 1930s and 1940s.

The mural, "In the Days of the Cattlemen's Picnic", was installed on the south wall of the Kingman Post Office lobby above the postmaster's door. This is the traditional location for Section artwork in the smaller class C and D post offices. "In the Days of the Cattlemen's Picnic" is an egg tempera on canvas mural depicting preparations for a rodeo that was part of the annual celebration put on by the Cattlemen's Association of Kingman. Cowboys herd cattle and horses around the corral as men and women lean against the fence and others watch the activity from horseback and a bicycle. Wilbur employs a primary palette of dusty beige, burnt seina, and green for the mural.

The mural was installed on July 1, 1942. It measured 11'2" by 5'8 3/4" before installation and is surmounted by a cornice moulding. The mural was painted on a coarse cotton canvas that was coated with a thin gesso. The tempera medium was based on a lean-medium emulsion of egg, linseed oil and water. A coat of emulsion was applied after the painting was thoroughly dry but it was not varnished. Wilbur suggested cleaning the mural gently with a soft sponge or rag, using as little water (or water and Ivory soap) as possible. In cleaning strokes she emphasized following the forms of the picture rather than using horizontal, vertical, or circular motions. If needed, the picture could be blotted dry with

☒ See continuation sheet

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a clean rag. The mural was restored by Marion Iserman of Denver, Colorado in the early 1970s. In August, 1973 the condition of the mural was assessed as good and remains as such.

A varnished, wooden vestibule projects into the lobby, but does not cut off any view of the mural because of the angled outer corner of the lobby. The vestibule is a traditional design feature found in most of the post offices included in this nomination. The lobby retains its original marble wainscotting. The south wall appears to have been modernized, the bulletin boards have been covered with panelling. This panelling is used throughout the lobby on the walls above the marble wainscotting. Additionally the postmaster's door and the surround appear to have been replaced. The floor tiles do not appear to be original. The original light fixtures have been replaced with almost flush mounted fluorescent lights. Although these changes do affect the integrity of the lobby the mural itself is not affected.

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☒ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Art

Politics/Government

Social History

Period of Significance

1942

1942

1942

Significant Dates

1942

1942

1942

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wilbur, Jesse S.: Artist

Simon, Louis: Supervising Architect

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Kingman United States Post Office (c. 1940-1941) is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Kansas Post Office Artwork (1936-1942) Thematic Resources nomination at the local and state levels of significance under criteria A and C for its historical association with the Treasury Department's Section program and for the artistic significance of the mural that it contains. The mural, "In the Days of the Cattlemen's Picnic", was painted by Bozeman, Montana artist Jessie S. Wilbur (1912-?) in 1942. Because the mural is less than fifty years old, criteria consideration G, which allows for exception significance in the case of properties achieving significance within the past fifty years, is also a factor. The National Register has identified post offices containing Section artwork as being exceptionally significant if they retain integrity from their period of significance.

"In the Days of the Cattlemen's Picnic" is an egg tempera on canvas mural depicting preparations for a rodeo that was part of the annual celebration put on by the Cattlemen's Association of Kingman. Cowboys herd cattle and horses around the corral as men and women lean against the fence, and others watch the activity from horseback and a bicycle. Wilbur employs a primary palette of dusty beige, burnt sienna, and green for the mural. Wilbur does not try to illustrate a particular time so much as to capture the event in general. Of the mural Wilbur said, "An artist does not try to photograph . . . but tries first to form an interesting organization and by using significant details, suggest the spirit of the scene." "In the Days of the Cattlemen's Picnic" is representative of the regional, illustrative realism that was funded under the Section program.

The extent of community involvement in the development of the subject material and presentation of the mural is not clear in the Kingman case. Wilbur likely received the Kingman commission as a result of designs previously submitted to the Section. Wilbur received the contract for

☒ See continuation sheet

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the mural on September 29, 1941 and the mural was installed on July 1, 1942. "In the Days of the Cattlemen's Picnic" was installed on the south wall of the lobby above the postmaster's door. It measured 11'2" by 5'8 3/4" before installation. A cornice moulding surmounts the mural. Wilbur received \$800 for the mural. The Kingman Post Office is an example of one of the many smaller class C or D type post offices that received Section artwork in Kansas.

Wilbur was born in Whitewater, Wisconsin. She studied art and education at the Colorado State College of Education, Greeley, receiving her Master's Degree in 1938. She then taught in art in Delaware and Iowa before moving to a position at the Montana State College, where she was employed when she received the Kingman commission.

Please see the Kansas Post Office Artwork (1936-1942) Thematic Resources cover nomination for additional information.

## 9. Major Bibliographical Reference

General Services Administration. Treasury Department's Section Records -  
Kingman, Kansas.

Kingman Leader Courier, 29 June 1942.

Svedlow, Dr. Anthony V., (Mulvane Gallery, Washburn University, Topeka,  
Kansas). Personal interview with Martha Hagedorn-Krass, January 8, 1988.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon, 21 May 1972.

☐ See continuation sheet

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)  
has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings  
Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

### Specify repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre.

### UTM References

A 1 4 5 7 8 2 6 0 4 1 6 6 6 6 7  
Zone Easting Northing

C                                             

B                                               
Zone Easting Northing

D                                             

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The nominated property is located on lots 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93,  
and S $\frac{1}{2}$  95 on Main Street in Kingman, Kansas. The property is bounded to the east  
by Main Street, to the west by an alley, and to the north and south by adjacent  
property lines.

☐ See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire parcel that is historically associated with  
the property.

☐ See continuation sheet

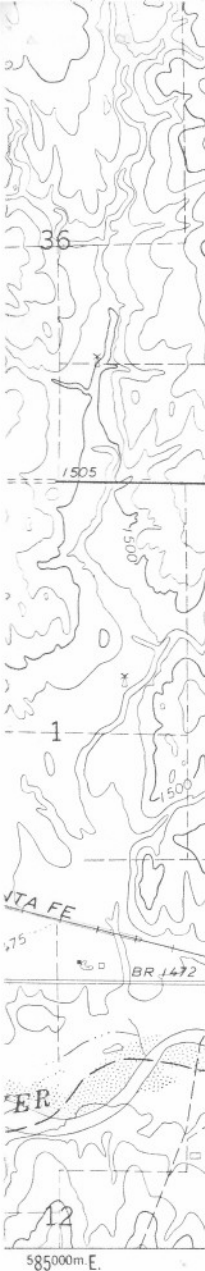
## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Hagedorn-Krass

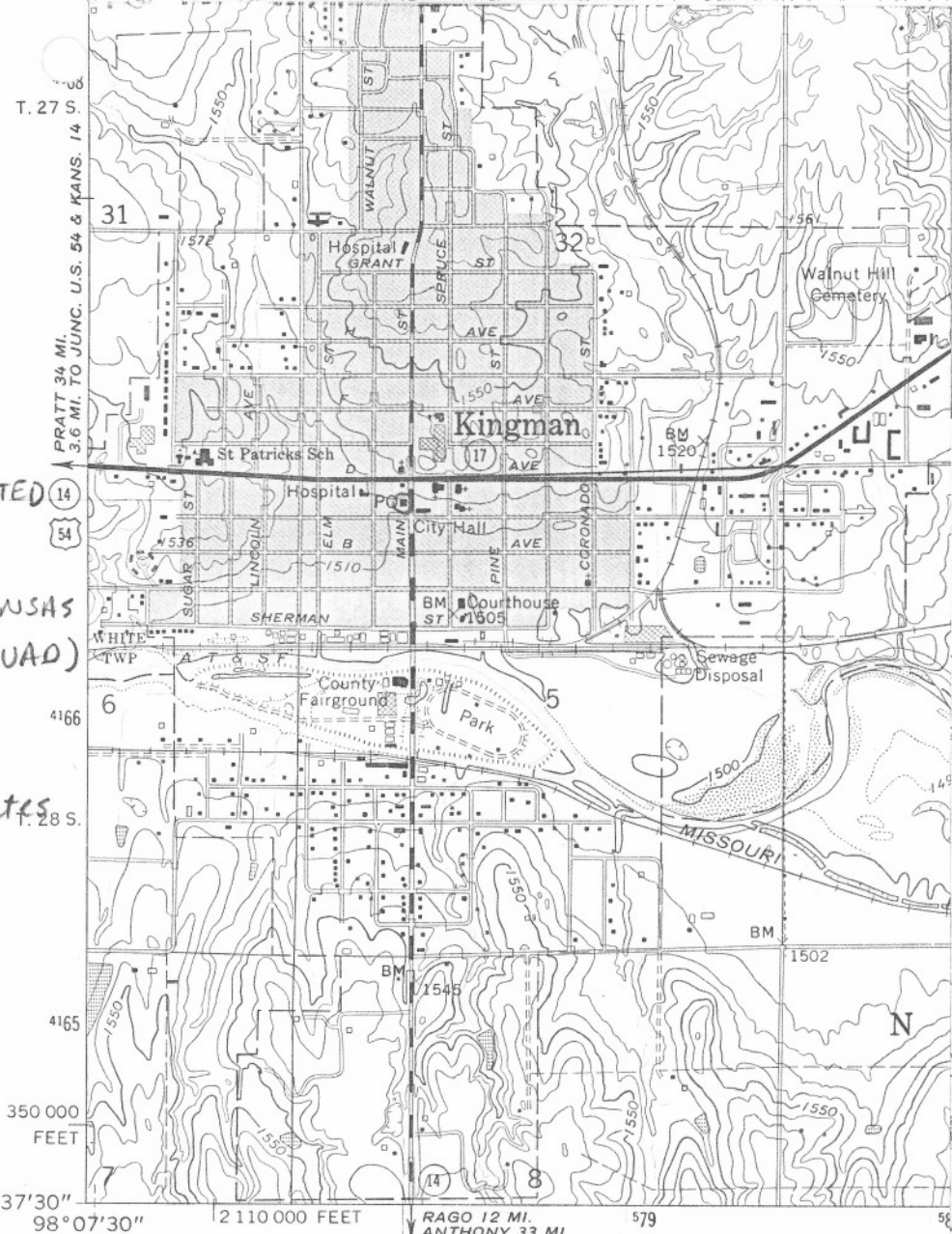
organization Kansas State Historical Society date February 27, 1989

street & number 120 W. 10th telephone 913-296-5264

city or town Topeka state Kansas zip code 66612



KINGMAN UNITED STATES POST OFFICE  
 KINGMAN, KANSAS  
 (KINGMAN QUAD)  
 14 578260  
 4166667  
 UTM Coordinates



(CLEVELAND)  
 6359 11 SW



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1967

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Kansas coordinate system, south zone  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 zone 14, shown in blue

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
 move the projection lines 29 meters east as shown by  
 dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1981 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1983

UTM GRID AND DECLINATION